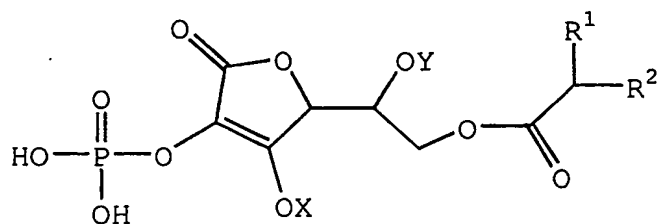


CLAIMS

1. An ascorbic acid derivative, which is a compound represented by the following general formula (1) or a salt thereof:

5 [Chemical Formula 9]



(1)

10 (wherein X and Y each represents H or a protective group for OH, R¹ and R² each represents an alkyl group having from 1 to 19 carbon atoms, which may be linear or branched, and the total number of carbon atoms in R¹ and R² is an integer of 5 to 22).

15 2. The ascorbic acid derivative according to claim 1, which is a salt with one or more metal selected from the group consisting of alkali metal, alkaline earth metal, aluminum, iron, zinc and bismuth.

20 3. The ascorbic acid derivative according to claim 1, which is a salt with ammonia, monoethanolamine, diethanolamine, triethanolamine, dicyclohexylamine or 2-amino-1-methylpropanol.

25 4. The ascorbic acid derivative according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the total number of carbon atoms in R¹ and R² of the general formula (1) is an integer of 8 to 18.

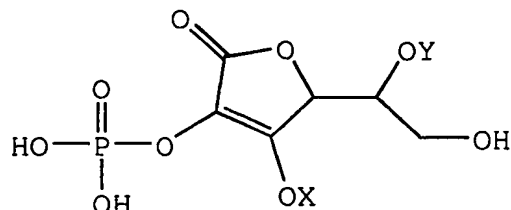
5. The ascorbic acid derivative according to claim 4, wherein R¹ and R² of the general formula (1) are a linear alkyl group, and the total number of carbon atoms in the linear alkyl groups of R¹ and R² is 14 or 16.

30 6. The ascorbic acid derivative according to claim 5, wherein in the general formula (1), R¹ is n-C₉H₁₉, and R² is n-C₇H₁₅; or R¹ is n-C₈H₁₇, and R² is n-C₆H₁₃.

7. A process for producing an ascorbic acid

derivative according to any one of claims 1 to 6,
comprising a step of reacting a compound represented by
the following general formula (2) and/or a salt thereof:
[Chemical Formula 10]

5



(2)

(wherein X and Y each represents H or a protective group
for OH), with at least one selected from fatty acid,
10 fatty acid salt, fatty acid ester, fatty acid halide,
and/or fatty acid anhydride.

8. The process for producing an ascorbic acid
derivative according to claim 7, wherein the reaction is
performed in the presence of a condensing agent and/or
15 dehydrating agent.

9. The process for producing an ascorbic acid
derivative according to claim 8, wherein the dehydrating
agent is sulfuric acid.

10. The process for producing an ascorbic acid
20 derivative according to any one of claims 7 to 9, wherein
the reaction is conducted in a solvent selected from the
group consisting of: water, acetone, dioxane, toluene,
ethylbenzene, methyl-tert-butyl ether and sulfuric acid.

11. A vitamin C preparation comprising the ascorbic
25 acid derivative according to any one of claims 1 to 6 as
an effective ingredient.

12. A collagen production accelerator comprising
the ascorbic acid derivative according to any one of
claims 1 to 6 as an effective ingredient.

30 13. A whitening preparation comprising the ascorbic
acid derivative according to any one of claims 1 to 6 as
an effective ingredient.

14. A skin preparation for external use, comprising

the ascorbic acid derivative according to any one of claims 1 to 6 as an effective ingredient.

5 15. The skin preparation for external use according to claim 14, which contains an ascorbic acid-2-phosphoric acid ester and/or a salt thereof.

16. The skin preparation for external use according to claim 14, which contains sodium salt, potassium salt, magnesium salt or zinc salt of the ascorbic acid-2-phosphoric acid ester.

10 17. A cosmetic material comprising the skin preparation for external use according to any one of claim 14 to 16.

15 18. A composition comprising the ascorbic acid derivative according to any one of claims 1 to 6, in the form of a medical or pharmaceutical preparation, an agrochemical preparation or an animal drug preparation.

19. A composition comprising the ascorbic acid derivative according to any one of claims 1 to 6, in the form of a food or feed additive.